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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/336,031	06/18/1999	KEVIN CURTIS	2698/36	7183
26646	7590	06/02/2004	EXAMINER	
KENYON & KENYON ONE BROADWAY NEW YORK, NY 10004			COLBERT, ELLA	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				3624

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/336,031	CURTIS ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Ella Colbert	3624	My

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 March 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4,7-15,18-30 and 34-49 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 1-4,7-15,18-30 and 34-49 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 17.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims 1-15, 18-30, and 33-49 are pending. Claims 1, 12, 25, 37, 39, and 41-49 have been amended and claims 5, 6, 16, 17, 31, and 32 have been canceled in this communication filed 03/18/04 as RCE entered as paper no. 15, Amendment D entered as paper no. 16, and IDS entered as paper no. 17.
3. Applicants' Double Patenting rejection has been overcome by Applicants' filing a Terminal Disclaimer and amendment to independent claims 1, 25, 37, 39, and 41-49 and also the claims that depend on claims 1, 25, 37, 39, and 41-49 which are claims 2-4, 7-11, 13-15, 19-24, 26-30, 33-36, 38, and 40 is hereby withdrawn.
4. The IDS filed 03/18/04 has been entered as paper no. 17. The non-patent reference "File Systems", Operating Systems: Design & Implementation", pp. 252-265 (1997) by Andrew S. Tanenbaum is missing. **Applicants' are respectfully requested to resubmit this reference for consideration.**

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

5. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03/18/04 has been entered.

Claim Objections

6. Claims 7, 10, 18, 21, 33, and 35 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 7, 10, 18, 21, 33, and 35 depend on a canceled claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Election/Restrictions

7. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-4 and 7-11, drawn to processing a symbol, classified in class 705, subclass 35.
- II. Claims 12-30, 33-36, 39, 40, and 43-49, drawn to normalizing an input symbol, classified in class 707, subclass 3.
- III. Claims 37, 41, and 42, drawn to receiving an input symbol, classified in class 704, subclass 10.

8. Inventions Group I, Group II and Group III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention Group I has separate utility such as processing a symbol to generate a master symbol and storing at least one information element. Invention Group II has separate utility such as receiving an information element, normalizing the input symbol, and searching a master symbol database. Invention Group III has separate utility such as receiving an input symbol and a document and storing a document in the document database. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

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9. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

10. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Groups II and III. The search required for Group II is not required for Groups I and III. The search for Group III is not required for Groups I and II and it is for these reasons restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

11. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

12. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Inquiries

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ella Colbert whose telephone number is 703-308-7064. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 am -5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on 703-308-1038. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



E. Colbert

June 1, 2004